

ATYC NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2023

This is the ATYC Newsletter which will be sent out to Clubs on a regular basis. It can be used as an ATYC Club Noticeboard and can carry such items as a Club's major event or a short news story. Contributions should be sent to me. Happy reading and stay safe.

Mike Chambers

RNLI Callouts Rise. RNLI call outs to motorboats, sailing yachts and dinghies have increased by 5%. In 2021, volunteer lifeboat crews were called out to 1,968 recreational boats; in 2022, this rose to 2,081. The biggest number of RNLI call outs were to boats with machinery or equipment problems, including engine failure. Last year, the RNLI was launched to 1,007 vessels with machinery or equipment problems – 591 of them were motor boats, 411 were sailing yachts.

South Dock to Go Residential. South Dock Marina has just been granted planning permission by Southwark Council to go 100% residential. However, the new Harbour Master is still keen to welcome visiting yachts should there be a berth available.

Elmbridge Consult on PSPOs. Elmbridge Council are consulting on whether to use Public Space Protection Orders to protect their green spaces, countryside sites and riverside sites against unauthorised mooring and other specified activities. PSPOs relating to unauthorised moorings will be for:

- a) Albany Reach, Ditton Reach and City Wharf (Thames Ditton)
- b) Hurst Park Open Space (West Molesey)
- c) Cigarette Island (East Molesey)
- d) Cowley Sale Open Space (Walton-on-Thames)
- e) Surrey County Council's land adjacent to Hampton Court bridge (Parrs mooring)

Boat Owner fined. A boat-owner from Gainsborough Green in Abingdon has been convicted of failing to register his boat for use on the River Thames. Including costs and surcharge, he was required to pay a total of £574.94 - more than six times as much as the registration fee.

First Time Boaters Films. The 5 short animated videos, available on YouTube, are designed primarily for new boaters, including hire boaters. They give straightforward guidance on staying safe when boating, mooring and using locks. There is also information about bridges, tunnels, weirs and sluices, and advice to help boaters protect the waterway network's unique heritage and wildlife.

EA To Strike. In April 2023, UNISON Environment Agency members will be taking full strike action over the following dates - **From 7pm on Friday 14 April, to 7am on Monday 17 April.** Which services will be affected is not yet clear

Calor Gas Update. In January Calor announced plans to streamline their small cylinder range by removing the 3.9 Kg Propane and the 4.5 Butane cylinders from their range. Calor have now stated that will continue to exchange and refill serviceable cylinders which do

not require refurbishment due to age or damage. Calor is able to keep this stock of cylinders in circulation for the foreseeable future. However, they will be phased out once they reach end of life and will not be replaced by new cylinders of these sizes. Cylinders that are deemed unserviceable will be taken out of circulation. This means that over time, and as the number of cylinders decrease, supplies will be limited for users of these specific sizes.

How long it will be before exchanges will not longer be possible has yet to be determined by Calor. Stocks of full cylinders are being held at some suppliers but boaters are advised to check beforehand

Dates for the Diaries

17 Apr – *ATYC AGM at the Windsor Yacht Club – attend either in person or by Zoom*

17 Apr - RUG Chairs meeting

19 Apr – EA TNUF meeting – members will be informed of salient points in the next newsletter